

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

SIERRA LEONE SITUATION REPORT 020921 UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1

DATE 05-02-2006 BY

60309AUCTAM/MLI/CLS DUE

TO 1006600, DATED 3/29/06

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## FBI/DS Deployment - Freetown, Sierra Leone

## Situation Report

As of: 1300Z, 02/09/2004

Activity:

The team met with Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) [redacted] on 02/08/2004. [redacted] had returned from Monrovia, Liberia on 02/07/2004, where he had conducted investigations related to the SCSL's mandate. In the course of these investigations, [redacted] had interviewed several members of the staff of the Royal Hotel in Monrovia. This hotel was formerly known as the Hotel Boulevard, and was a known hangout for [redacted] and those with whom he conducted illicit diamond deals. In the course of these interviews, [redacted] displayed a page of photos of the Top 22 Terrorists taken from the FBI web site. According to [redacted] all parties interviewed identified [redacted] as individuals who had spent time in the hotel. A report on this contact will follow under separate cover pending [redacted] provision of documents in his possession relating to his investigation in Monrovia. [redacted] strongly advocated the team's travel to Monrovia, claiming "everything was in Monrovia," and that if the team chose not to travel to Monrovia, it "would not be doing its job."

[redacted] described the following as the investigative leads for the team he had discovered in Monrovia:

- 1) Interviewing the staff at the Royal Hotel (formerly Hotel Boulevard); Interviews at the Liberian Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) HQ in Bata (phonetic), Liberia. These potential interviews are based on information that the individuals identified by the Royal Hotel staff as [redacted] may have traveled to the ATU HQ. Before the team conducts any investigation into this matter, the lead information will be confirmed and more specifics garnered. RSO Monrovia will then be consulted on the feasibility of travel to, and interviews in, the ATU compound; and,
- 1) To locate and interview [redacted] if possible. [redacted] is described as [redacted] the CHARLES TAYLOR regime who leased a Boeing 737 aircraft for TAYLOR to use as his "presidential aircraft." [redacted] is reportedly now the Liberian Ambassador at Large for the Ivory Coast. According to [redacted] is an associate [redacted] and used the 737 to transport a number of Lebanese diamond traders into and out of Monrovia. At this time, even given the above is factual, the team sees very little connection between [redacted] and its investigation. However, any information regarding [redacted] available to the team while in Monrovia will be investigated and reported.

UNCLASSIFIED - EFTO

1 of 3

MISC. REQ. #57

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Page 2

UNCLASSIFIED - EFTO

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The team met briefly with [redacted] during the evening of 02/08/2004. [redacted] was briefed on the team's meeting with [redacted] and the team's belief it was necessary to travel to Monrovia in light of [redacted] information and allegations. [redacted] concurred and advised he would make contact with his counterpart in Monrovia to facilitate the team's anticipated travel. Additionally, [redacted] provided the team with a classified cable from the Defense Attaché's Office (DAO) in Conakry, Guinea, Unclass Serial: IIR 6 839 0038 04, Unclass Subject: Details on the 1992 Murder of the Catholic Nuns, see **Intent** below.

The team continues to maintain a dialog with Amembassy Monrovia to facilitate the team's travel there. The country clearance cable was sent out on 02/08/2004 from Amembassy Freetown to Amembassy Monrovia, naming [redacted] as travelers, see **Personnel** below. The team is in receipt of LEGAT BONNER's email regarding DCI concurrence for travel to Monrovia and will comply.

**Intent:**

The team, minus [redacted] intends to travel to Monrovia, Liberia on 02/10/2004 to conduct logical investigation of the leads provided by [redacted]. Transportation will be provided by a regularly scheduled U.N. World Food Program (WFP) fixed wing flight from Freetown to Monrovia, as arranged by the SCSL. The team would then return to Freetown via the same aircraft on 02/14/2004. Due to the current status of the U.S. mission in Liberia, if the team completes all logical investigation in Monrovia prior to 02/14/2004, the team may make alternate plans to return to Freetown earlier. Flight arrangements for [redacted] to return to the U.S. are being negotiated, and **the team will require a fund site in order to complete these arrangements.** Flight arrangements for [redacted] remained unchanged, see **Administrative/Logistical** below.

The team anticipates possibly interviewing [redacted] and another SCSL confidential witness on 02/09/2004. Reports on these interviews, if they occur, will follow under separate cover.

Based on the content of the aforementioned DAO Conakry cable, the team will contact case agent for the captioned matter, SA [redacted] FBI WFO, to determine whether she would like the team to pursue the lead in Monrovia, if possible. If [redacted] concurs, the team will coordinate with RSO Monrovia to conduct the appropriate investigation while on the ground.

The team anticipates reporting from Amembassies Dakar and Kinshasa, and additional reporting from Amembassy Monrovia.

UNCLASSIFIED - EFTO

2 of 3

MISC. REQ. #57

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Page 3

UNCLASSIFIED - EFTO

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Personnel:

As discussed with D/UC [REDACTED] on 02/08/2004, [REDACTED] will travel to Monrovia to conduct logical investigation as described supra. [REDACTED] will remain in Freetown to finalize any investigative issues with the SCSL and will then depart as previously scheduled on 02/12/2004. TL believes this will effectively cover all aspects of the investigation while dramatically reducing the logistical burden of moving personnel to and from Monrovia, lodging them and ensuring their safety while in Monrovia, and arranging for their travel back to the U.S. Additionally, [REDACTED] the week of 02/16/2004, and leaving his itinerary unchanged will ensure he is available to his family during this time.

Administrative/Logistical:

As described supra, the members of the team traveling to Monrovia will do so via U.N. WFP fixed wing aircraft as arranged through the SCSL. While in Monrovia, RSO Monrovia has arranged for the team to be housed on the embassy compound, as required by current embassy rules. RSO Monrovia advised a vehicle and driver would likely be available for the team during their stay. Approval to travel away from the embassy will be negotiated on an as needed basis as the investigation requires. Security arrangements for the team's travel will also be negotiated as needed. While the RSO is required to stay on or near the compound, and therefore would be unavailable to travel with the team, he can provide SPE for the team members, as required. The team will advise of itineraries for [REDACTED] as they become available.

[REDACTED] will depart Freetown as scheduled on 02/12/2004, arriving at Washington, Dulles via Brussels at 1530 hrs on 02/13/2004 on United Airlines Flight 951.

Note: TL requests FT make arrangements with Dulles RA to expedite [REDACTED] through his international arrival on 02/13/2004 at Washington, Dulles in order to facilitate his domestic connection back to Detroit. [REDACTED] will make his own arrangements for transport from Dulles to his residence.

Safety/Medical:

NSTR.

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED - EFTO

3 of 3

MISC. REQ. #57

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